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**Subsidiary Body for Implementation**
**Forty-first session**
**Lima, 1–8 December 2014**

Item 11(b) of the provisional agenda
**Matters relating to finance**
**Further guidance to the Least Development Countries Fund**

# Information on experiences with the implementation of the remaining elements of the least developed countries work programme

## Submissions by Parties and relevant organizations

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its eighteenth session, invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 1 August 2014, information on their experiences with the implementation of the remaining elements of the least developed countries work programme, considering the options contained in the report on the twenty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its forty-first session.[1]

2. The secretariat has received one such submission from a Party on 29 August 2014. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.[2]

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[1] Decision 10/CP.18, paragraph 8.

* The submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

[2] Also available at <www.unfccc.int/5902>.

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## Submission by Nepal on behalf of Least Developed Countries Group on further Guidance to the Least Developed Countries Fund

### Background

The Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) welcomes the invitation to Parties and relevant organizations to submit their views as per decision 10/CP.18 on LDC's experiences on the implementation of the remaining elements of the Least Developed Countries work programme, considering the options contained in the report on the twenty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).

The LDC Group stresses that the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) is a unique and appropriate fund that is dedicated to support specific adaptation needs of LDCs as per decisions 7/CP.7, 27/CP.7, 28/CP.7 and 29/CP.7. Further, the Group acknowledges that Annex II Countries and other Parties in Annex I that are in a position to do so have been making voluntary financial contributions to the LDCF in accordance with decisions 8/CP.8, 3/CP.11 and 5/CP.14.

The LDC Group further acknowledges the fact that so far 51 LDCs (including the countries that have graduated from LDCs) have accessed funding of $12.2 million[1] from the LDCF for the preparation of their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and 48 countries have accessed a total of $726.25 million for 138 NAPA projects to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs[2].

The LDC Group in its previous submission had expressed its concern that the implementation of the LDC work programme should not be limited to support the preparation of NAPAs alone. The LDCF should be in a position to support the full implementation of the entire LDC work programme in an effective and efficient manner.

Elements of the LDC work programme as per decision 5/CP.7:

1. Support the preparation of NAPAs;
2. Strengthening existing and establishing national climate change secretariats;
3. Provide trainings;
4. Promotion of public awareness programmes;
5. Development and transfer of technologies; and
6. Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services.

### Current status

In order to fully implement the NAPAs that have been prepared by the Least Developed Countries, it is estimated that more than US$2 billion is needed. However, as of now a total amount of US$879.8 million has been pledged to the LDCF, of which US$831.5 million have been paid[3].

Though some 138 projects have accessed funding of US$726.25 million, more funding is needed for the implementation of many medium- or full-sized projects. Therefore, funding for the full implementation of the LDC work programme, as well as formulation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) should be available urgently and be different from funding for the implementation of NAPAs.

The LDC Group acknowledges the work of the GEF in preparing a user-friendly guideline for accessing resources and streamlining the project cycle. The time needed to approve the first NAPA implementation project has decreased from

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[1] GEF (2014). "*The Least Developed Countries Fund: Review of the Implementation of NAPAs*". <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/LDCF%20Implementation%20of%20NAPA.pdf>

[2] LDCF website. http://www.thegef.org/gef/LDCF

[3] LDCF website. http://www.thegef.org/gef/LDCF

32 to 12 months and recently to 75 days. Similarly, the time between project approval and CEO endorsement has been reduced to 14 months from 17 months[4]. However, LDCs are concerned about the delay in communication between countries and the GEF Implementing Agencies.

**Recommendations**

i. Project cycle for NAPA implementation must be further reduced in order to address the urgent and immediate needs of LDCs.

ii. The GEF Implementing Agencies must expedite their communication with the countries to ensure a timely implementation of NAPAs and other elements of the LDC work programme.

iii. Furthermore, the LDC Group stresses that the LDCF must allow LDCs to follow a dynamic implementation of their NAPAs by supporting programmatic approaches instead of individual projects and establishing a strong national support system to ensure best results. In relation to this, the LDCF should encourage medium- or full-sized projects for LDCs to access funding for the implementation of the LDC work programme.

iv. In order to expedite the implementation of projects and also promote country ownership, the LDCF should enhance enabling activities for LDCs to be able to better access funds by using direct access modality.

v. As per the recommendation of the twenty-first meeting of the LEG, LDCF should continue to encourage projects to set aside a specific percentage of their budget and provide additional resources where needed, towards strengthening national data collection efforts beyond the specific area of the project, and also for supporting the functioning of National Climate Change Secretariat /UNFCCC Focal Point.

vi. Further, the LEG, following its twenty-first meeting, recommends the organization of enabling activities as part of a global support programme by the GEF Implementing Agencies for all LDCs with support provided to each country based on their prioritization of the elements of the LDC work programme to meet country-driven needs.

vii. Since there are various projects that are being implemented through the LDCF, the GEF should facilitate initiatives that encourage best practices and share information especially at the regional level so that countries could benefit from these valuable practical experiences.

viii. Considering the lack of resources to support the implementation of projects under the NAPAs and other elements of the LDC work programme, the GEF should take all the necessary and appropriate actions to raise awareness about the urgency for adequate and predictable resources for the LDCF.

ix. Annex II countries and other Parties in Annex I that are in a position to do so should urgently provide additional funding to address the challenges and immediate needs of LDCs.

x. The GEF should seek ways to strengthen collaboration with the GCF to channel resources that would enable LDCs to finance the remaining projects under the NAPAs.

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[4] GEF (2012). *"Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change".* <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF%20Report%20to%20COP18.pdf>